

Application No. 09/823,141
Confirmation No. 8655

Office Action Mailing Date: November 30, 2004
Reply Date: Feb. 28, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings replace the original drawing sheets for Figs. 1 and 2.

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REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on August 18, 2004. Claims 1-11 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 8, 10 and 11 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 3-7, 10-11 have been amended, Claims 2 and 8-9 have been cancelled and Claims 12-18 have been added.

(1) In the Office Action, the Specification was objected to because the cross references related to the application must be updated with PTO serial numbers or patent numbers where appropriate throughout the specification. Applicant wishes to point out that of the five serial numbers in question, one has been allowed, one has been issued a publication number, one has been abandoned, and two do not appear to have been issued patent publication numbers. By means of the present amendment, the Specification has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

(2) In the Office Action, the Drawings were objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d) for being handwritten and difficult to read. In response, new proposed replacement drawing sheets have been provided for Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

(3) In the Office Action, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,697,103 issued to Fernandez et al. (hereinafter

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Fernandez). By means of the present amendment, Claim 8 has been cancelled and incorporated as a dependent claim.

(4) In the Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,226,612 issued to Dussell et al. ("Dussell") in view of Fernandez

Independent Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended to better define Applicant's invention and to overcome the above-noted rejections. In particular, Claims 1 has been amended to differentiate Applicant's system from the disclosure provided by the cited references. Independent Claim 10 has been amended to become a dependent claim which directly depends from Claim 7 and Claim 11 has been amended to differentiate Applicant's method from the disclosure provided by the cited references. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the following:

A task management system for use in a home environment for managing a task scheduled in advance and involving a user moving an object from a first location to a second location, the system comprising:

- (a) a tag attached to said object;
- (b) a first sensor fixedly positioned in a path of travel of said object from said first location to said second location, said first sensor configured to:
 - (i) remotely sense the presence of said object at a point between said first and second locations via said tag attached to said object;
 - (ii) transmit a first signal responsive to the remote sensing of the presence of said object at said point between said first and second locations;
 - (iii) remotely sense the absence of said object at said point between said first and second locations via said tag attached to said object, subsequent to said transmission of said first signal; and
 - (iv) transmit a second signal responsive to the remote sensing of the absence of said object at said point between said first and second locations;
- (c) scheduling means configured for scheduling said task;
- (d) monitoring means for

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- (i) receiving and processing said first and second signals transmitted from said first sensor;
- (ii) generating a reminder message for display to said user to perform said scheduled task;
- (iii) automatically removing said reminder message upon receiving said second signal from said first sensor indicating completion of said scheduled task.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite the following:

A method of providing a service to a user of a task management system for use in a home environment, the system enabling the user to manage a task scheduled in advance, the task involving the user moving an object from a first location to a second location, the method comprising the acts of:

- scheduling a reminder message to carry out said task;
- displaying said scheduled reminder message to the user;
- remotely sensing the presence of an object at a first point in said path between said first location and said second location;
- transmitting a first signal to a monitoring means responsive to said remote sensing of the presence of said object at said first point in said path;
- remotely sensing the absence of said object at said first point in said path between said first location and said second location, subsequent to remotely sensing the presence of said object at said first point;
- transmitting a second signal to said monitoring means responsive to said remote sensing of the absence of said object at said first point in said path; and
- automatically removing said reminder message responsive to receiving said second signal at said monitoring means.

None of the cited references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest the above limitations which have been added to Claims 1 to differentiate Applicant's system from the disclosure of the cited references. In particular, none of the references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest at least the above-underlined limitations which have been added to Claim 1.

Further, none of the references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest a method of providing a service to a user of a task management system for use in a home environment, the system enabling the user to manage a task scheduled in advance, the task

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involving the user moving an object from a first location to a second location, as recited in Applicant's Claim 11. In particular, none of the references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest at least the above-underlined limitations which have been added to Claim 11.

Accordingly, it is believed that Applicant's Claims 1 and 11 recite patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 1 and 11 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-7 and 10 depend from Claim 1 and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 1, Claims 3-7 and 10 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 3-7 and 10 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1, 3-7, 10-18 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Dicron Halajian, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America Corp., at 914-333-9607.

Respectfully submitted,



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